

Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of November 12 - November 16, 2007

1. 1. Purple Line Open Houses: The Maryland Transit Administration will hold five public open houses on the Purple Line in December. The Purple Line is a proposed light rail or bus rapid transit line that would connect Bethesda to New Carrollton, with a series of stops in Silver Spring, Long Branch, Takoma/Langley and College Park. The drop-in format allows the public to stop by between 5:00 and 8:00 pm and talk with State transportation planners and consultants about the route alternatives, station locations, etc. The same information will be available at each open house: December 3, East Silver Spring Elementary School, 631 Silver Spring Avenue; December 5, College Park Municipal Center, 4500 Knox Road; December 10, Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive; December 12, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Hwy; December 13, West Lanham Hills Rec Center, 7700 Decatur Road, Landover Hills. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

2. Vigil for Pedestrian Safety: A vigil will be held on Sunday, November 18 at 5:00pm at Temple Emanuel, 10101 Connecticut Avenue, to remember pedestrian accident victims. County Executive Ike Leggett, Councilmember Valerie Ervin and family members of accident victims will participate. The event will include a call to action emphasizing what individuals can do to make their communities safer, and a responsive healing reading led by clergy. Parking is very limited at the Temple, so shuttle buses (marked "Special") will be running from the first two bus bays at the Takoma Metro. The buses will leave between 4:30 and 4:45 pm. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

3. Fire Station Groundbreaking Ceremony Cancelled: The City was informed that the planned groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for December 13 has been delayed. The County plans to reschedule and will inform us of the new date. *(Executive Assistant)*

Tree Planting: The group purchase of trees that the City coordinated are now being planted. Thirty over-story trees were purchased and will be planted by next Monday. *(Public Works)*

4. Maple Avenue Bridge Reopened: Construction on the pedestrian bridge on Maple Avenue has been completed. The new bridge was reinforced with additional steel beams, repainted and new wooden slats were installed. The bridge is open and available for pedestrians. There will be some additional work scheduled on the sidewalk leading to the bridge in the near future. The sidewalk improvement project will provide wider access and establish a curb and gutter prior to the bridge. The bridge access will be restricted for 2 to 3 days during that work. Prior to the start of the work, the area will be posted. *(Public Works)*

5. The Book Sale: The Friends of the Library Book Sale, held Saturday, November 10 in the Community Center, netted approximately \$1500. Its success would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many volunteer helpers, and those who donated books throughout the summer and fall. The Library is not now taking book donations, but will resume doing so soon. *(Library)*

6. Poetry Games and Exercises: The Library will sponsor a series of programs for middle schoolers featuring poetry games and exercises, with local poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer. Participants will meet in the Rose Room of the Community Center on four Mondays after school: November 26, December 3, December 10 and December 17. Call the Library to sign-up or for more information. *(Library)*

7. For In-BETweens: The newly formed 'Tween Book Club' is going strong. A group of

enthusiastic middle schoolers met with Karen MacPherson on Thursday afternoon for a discussion of "The Worry Web Site" by Jacqueline Wilson, followed by ice cream sundaes. They selected "The Agony of Alice" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor as their next book for discussion. Call the Library for additional information at 301-891-7259. *(Library)*

8. The Winners: An informal celebration of Caldecott book award winners was held at the Library on November 13. Participants read some favorite and lesser known recipients of this national award for best picture book, and did crafts with Karen MacPherson. *(Library)*

9. The Eaglebear Has Landed: Tomas Shash Eaglebear returned to the Library with family members and friends to entertain families with music, dancing and stories from his native Apache and Xicano cultures. *(Library)*

10. The Reading Group: The Friends of the Library Reading Group met November 13 for a discussion of David Malouf's "Remembering Babylon". Their next meeting will be in January. Call the Library for more information at 301-891-7259. *(Library)*

11. The Story Hour: The next Bedtime Story Hour will be held Monday, November 19 at 7:00pm. Participants are welcome to bring stuffed toys, pajamas, pillows and blankets. Call the Library to preregister at 301-891-7259. *(Library)*

12. The Chief in Meetings: On November 15, Chief Ricucci, A/Lt. Tyrone Collington and Mrs. Catherine Plevy met with the Old Town Residents' Association (OTRA) in Takoma Park to discuss crime and prevention. Chief Ricucci made a brief statement and then spent time answering many questions and concerns from the citizens. *(Police)*

13. Busy Week: Chief Ricucci spent most of this week working on the homicide, robberies and armed car jacking. *(Police)*

14. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 31 traffic stops this week, which resulted in citations, and one vehicle impound. *(Police)*

15. What's on TV?: City TV staff covered the AHC's Thursday Poetry Series on Thursday November 15th which will air next month as a Special Event. *(City TV)*

16. The Takoma Park Recreation Department's Annual Halloween Events: The costume contest, parade, and bash on October 27 attracted over 500 people on a beautiful evening. The St. Roch Cemetery Stompers played great music dressed in the Halloween spirit while participants danced around the hall. The Recreation Department partnered with the Big Bad Woof for the second annual Canine Costume Contest. All participants received treats and doggie cake. A slide show of Halloween events can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov. *(Recreation)*

17. Fun Day: The Family Fun Day went to Homestead Farm on October 28 where 10 participants went on a hay ride, picked pumpkins, pet and fed the farm animals, and took their chances in a haunted corn maze. The next Family Fun Day is December 1 to the Festival of Lights and Mormon Temple from 6:00- 8:00p.m. Cost per person is \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. *(Recreation)*

18. Afternoon Addition: The Afternoon Addition on November 7 featured a flutist, Carrie Rose, who played wonderful music and told stories. The kids enjoyed exploring movements and role playing. Ms. Rose is a local musician who writes her own music for children and is gifted in capturing their attention. *(Recreation)*

19. **When School is Out:** November 9 was a half day of school and Mad Science was invited to share their program, Mineral Mania, with 35 kids. (*Recreation*)

20. **What's Yours is Mime:** On Monday, November 12, Takoma Park Recreation Department welcomed "Imagimime" to its FUN DAY program. Thirty kids participated and watched in amazement the miming antics of Imagimime. Following the performance, kids were taught simple miming techniques. (*Recreation*)

21. **Training the Rec Staff:** Three staff members attended an all county recreation training on October 18. The meeting was planned for recreation professionals to have a forum where they share ideas and brainstorm on chosen topics. (*Recreation*)

22. **A Gathering of Minds:** The Recreation Director attended a meeting on November 15, with directors from all over the State of Maryland to share ideas and network. Topics included legislative advocacy, marketing and workforce development. A guest speaker from the National Recreation and Park Association shared his thoughts on the importance of environmental stewardship as an integral part of all recreation and parks agencies. (*Recreation*)